

# Following the Right Path (الاهتداء)

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Allah has promised forgiveness, and verily it is something precious, for the one who brings forth four things.

- 1) Repentance
- 2) Faith (al-Īmān)
- 3) Righteous deeds
- 4) Follow the right path

Allah Ta'āla said,

{ وَإِنِّي لَغَفَّارٌ □ لِّمَن تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا □ ثُمَّ اهْتَدَى }

*Surely I am the Most-Forgiving for him who repents and believes and acts righteously, then follows the right path.*

[Surah Tā-Hā: 82]

The first three matters are well known. But what does following the right path (الاهتداء) mean?

It was said that it is

- Steadfastness upon those things
- Clinging onto the Sunnah
- To know that there is a reward for his actions
- Other than it

What is apparent in my sight is that it means knowing Allah, the Glorious and Exalted, by His Names and Attributes and continuous remembrance.

Or it could be the increase in Faith, ie, to strive in increasing Faith as Allah Ta'āla said,

{ وَيَزِيدُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا هُدًى }<sup>ط</sup>

*Allah makes those who follow the right path increase in guidance.*  
[Surah Maryam: 76]

ie, Allah increases the Faithful believers in Faith as stated by Bukhari (رحمه الله) in his Sahīh. The Qur'ānic context also denotes that, as Mūsa (عليه السلام) after he brought forth those three things, strived for the Pleasure of his Lord.

{ وَعَجِلْتُ إِلَيْكَ رَبِّ لِتَرْضَى }<sup>ا</sup>

*“...and I hurried towards You, my Lord, so that You be pleased.”*  
[Surah Ṭā-Hā: 84]

So the one who repents from his sins and truly believes in his Lord and acts righteously then he must strive to increase his Faith and to gain the pleasure of ar-Rahman by a variety of deeds and by contemplating upon the vast creations of Allah and His Names and Attributes. After the attainment of these four matters and only after it, Allah will forgive you for every righteous action that you bring forth, as the means of forgiveness has been plentifully mentioned in the Qur'ān and the Sunnah, so ponder, for it is essential.

**(al-Fawāid, 3/66)**